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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Rural District of South Molton



FOR THE YEAR 1963.

Rural District of South Molton

Telephone No.
South Molton 2117

Public Health Department,
8, East Street,
SOUTH MOLTON.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1963.

E. WILLIAMS
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

L. W. EVES,
M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector



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Report of Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the

South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District of South Molton, for the year 1963.

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

Part-time Officers—

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.,

G. T. HILL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	117,432
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)						8,410
Rateable Value as at 1.4.63	...	...	...	...	...	£122,586
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1963/64)	...	...	...	...	...	£480
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1964)	...	...	...	...	...	2,805
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	364
Extracts from Vital Statistics:—						
Births: Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.19
Deaths	..	..	...	...	...	0.90

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	116
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.79
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births						4.3
Still Births:—						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	33.33
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	120
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infant Mortality Rates:—						
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births						17.24
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births						18.01
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births						Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	17.24
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	17.24
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)						50.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion):—						
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	93
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	11.06

POPULATION FIGURES SINCE 1950

	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1950	9038	161	100
1951	9207	124	117
1952	9141	137	108

1953	9063	133	94
1954	9050	116	89
1955	9030	115	95
1956	8920	118	104
1957	8850	141	84
1958	8840	125	95
1959	8800	116	113
1960	8780	114	111
1961	8220	126	98
1962	8400	135	93
1963	8410	116	93

BIRTHS

During the year there were 116 live births in the Rural area as compared with 135 in 1962. There were 57 males and 59 female births.

Live Births

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	55	56	111
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	3	5
					Total ...	116
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...			13.79
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)						16.41

Still Births

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
					Total ...	4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...					33.33

DEATHS

During the year there were 93 deaths, of which 57 were males and 36 females. This was the same number as for 1962.

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	11.06
Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted by area Comparability Factor)				9.981

The following table gives the Causes of Death :—

	M.	F.	Total
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	1	0	1
„ „ —Lung, Bronchus	1	0	1
„ „ —Breast	0	1	1
„ „ —Uterus	0	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	4	3	7
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	11	20
Coronary Disease, Angina	12	4	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	13	7	20
Other Circulatory Disease	2	0	2
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	4	1	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
All Other Accidents	2	0	2
Suicide	0	1	1
Total ...	57	36	93

Deaths in age groups:—

Under 4 weeks ...	0	25 — 44 years ...	0
4 weeks—1 year ...	2	45 — 54 „ ...	3
1 — 4 years ...	0	55 — 64 „ ...	15
5 — 14 „ ...	0	65 — 74 „ ...	27
15 — 24 „ ...	0	75 + „ ...	46

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 2 infants died under the age of 1 year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 17.24. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year.

Causes of Death

Male—3 days. Prematurity.
Male—9 hours. Prematurity and ateleclasis.

Maternal Mortality

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

Cancer Deaths

There were 13 deaths due to Cancer during the year as compared with 15 for the previous year. There was one death (male) due to lung cancer (3 in 1962).

	M.	F.	Total
Stomach Cancer	1	0	1
Lung and Bronchus Cancer	1	0	1
Breast	0	1	1
Uterus	0	3	3
Other Cancers	4	3	7
			<hr/> 13 <hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 100 infectious disease notifications were received. The majority of these (88) were measles and the outbreak occurred during the Spring and Summer months and was widespread throughout the Rural area.

There were 8 Whooping Cough notifications, 6 of which occurred in the 10—14 year old age groups. The decline in the number of Whooping Cough notifications for the year and the absence of the disease amongst children under 5 years of age is an effective indication of the efficiency of immunization in the area.

There were no cases of Diptheria or Infantile Paralysis, the last reported case of this disease was in 1957.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year. One case of Undulant Fever was brought to my notice, the illness occurred in an adult male—the source of the infection was probably milk borne as there was no history of contact with cattle. A number of milk samples from the domestic supplies were submitted for bacterial examination, but no brucella organisms were identified. Enquiries amongst the General Practitioners revealed that very few such illnesses occurred in the area.

There were no cases of pulmonary or lung tuberculosis notified during the year, and similarly there were no cases of non-pulmonary diseases. The latter diseases, which included tuberculous glands of neck, abdomen T.B., tuberculosis of bones and joints, etc., were particularly common amongst the young and were responsible for an immense amount of suffering and deformity and in some cases death.

Since the adoption of the Attested Herds Scheme and the elimination of tuberculous cattle from dairy herds these illnesses have gradually declined.

During the year within the district, 406 cattle were slaughtered for human consumption, and in none of the animals was there any evidence of T.B. infection. In the 1955 Report, out of 441 cattle slaughtered, 12 animals were affected with tuberculosis, one carcase being wholly condemned as a result of generalised infection. The discovery of a tuberculous lesion in cattle during routine meat inspection is now becoming a rarity.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December, 1963:—

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January, 1963 ...	9	15	24	7	7	14
31st December, 1963 ...	9	14	23	7	6	13

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year the North Devon Water Board extended their mains water to Knowstone, Rose Ash, East and West Anstey. All villages in the area with the exception of Molland, which has its own private water undertaking, are now on the North Devon supply.

One hundred and one dwellings and 39 farms were connected to mains water during the year, also the East Anstey Junior School. All schools maintained by the Devon Education Authority in the Rural District are now on mains water supply.

There are three private schools in the area, one of which is still on a private water supply.

Consideration was given by the Council during the year to the fluoridation of water supplies but after much discussion a decision was deferred for the time being.

The natural fluoride content of the mains water in the area is 0.02 parts per million.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (SECTION 4)

One case was dealt with under this Act during the year. This was a middle age male living in a caravan who had so neglected himself he succumbed to pneumonia during the long bitter freeze up in the early part of the year. As he was not receiving proper care and attention and refused all help he was compulsorily removed to hospital in his own interest and safety.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis

Hawley Hospital, situated in Borough of Barnstaple, with 28 beds, was closed at the end of March. All tuberculosis cases are now being treated at Hawkmoor.

Maternity Cases

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious cases.

Smallpox

The Smallpox Hospital, to which cases of Smallpox will be sent is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

General

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

Clinic and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	A.P. Refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions:—

FEMALES—Monday 4.00 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES— Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are 2 District Nurse Midwives in the area.

Laboratory Facilities

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

Infant Welfare Centre

Held Thursday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.30 p.m. at 99, East Street, South Molton.

Ante Natal Clinic

Held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 99, East Street.

Ambulance Services

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the ambulance service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and the Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me during the past year.

E. WILLIAMS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the Year ended 31st December, 1963.

8, EAST STREET,

SOUTH MOLTON.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1963.

During the year 2,011 visits and inspections were made including:—

PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	183
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfections and Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	4
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	111
General	...	...	...	...	6
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	0
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	31
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	15
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	133
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	52
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	48
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	...	...	...	...	115
FOOD AND DRUGS—General	...	...	...	...	9
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	303
FACTORIES—With Power	...	...	...	...	1
Without Power	...	...	...	...	7
HOUSING—Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	20
Council Houses in Course of Erection	...	...	...	...
Housing Sites and Council House	...	...	...	...
Supervision, etc.	...	...	...	...	477
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	92
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	...	...	13
INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	260
MISCELLANEOUS AND MEETINGS	...	...	...	...	123
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	...	...	...	...	7
WASTE FOODS	...	...	...	...	7
					<hr/> 2,011 <hr/>

WATER

PARISH	No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Anstey East ...	9	37	—	—
Anstey West ...	8	24	—	—
Bishopsnympton ...	105	321	1	2
Buckland East ...	6	21	—	—
Buckland West ...	51	166	—	—
Burrington ...	52	165	—	—
Charles (Brayford)	36	119	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	52	161	—	—
Chittlehampton ...	168	637	—	—
Cheldon ...	1	4	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	290	833	4	14
Creacombe ...	1	3	—	—
Filleigh ...	45	175	—	—
Georgenympton ...	32	107	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	78	216	1	3
Knowstone ...	19	58	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	55	135	—	—
Meshaw ...	25	67	—	—
North Molton ...	221	682	3	12
Queensnympton ...	4	14	—	—
Rackenford ...	49	158	—	—
Romansleigh ...	19	70	—	—
Rose Ash ...	30	96	—	—
Satterleigh and Warkleigh ...	14	45	—	—
Witheridge ...	198	617	12	43
Worlington East ...	64	237	—	—

36 Samples of Private Supplies were taken with the results as shown:—

	Chemical	Bacteriological
Satisfactory ...	—	10
Unsatisfactory ...	—	26

16 Bacteriological Samples were taken of Public Supplies with the following results:—

Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
16	—

Where the Private Water Supplies were found to be unsatisfactory, informal action was taken to have the matters remedied or an alternative source found, in many cases, in conjunction with the Drainage and Water Supplies Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

One sample taken from Chulmleigh Swimming Bath was found to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A Contract was signed for Kingsnympton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, but no work had been commenced by the end of the year. Detailed plans for Meshaw and Romansleigh sewage schemes were prepared and further preliminary work was carried out in respect of Burrington, Alswear and Witheridge Schemes. A proposal for a joint scheme with Barnstaple R.D.C. for Brayford and High Bray was approved by both Councils, and the Councils' Consultants were asked to proceed with the detailed proposals.

The existing disposal works were maintained satisfactorily.

HOUSING

During the year 17 houses were improved under the Standard Grant Scheme and 13 under the Discretionary Grant Scheme.

Thirteen private houses and four Council Bungalows were erected during the year. Thirty-four Council Bungalows and eight Council Houses were under construction at the end of the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business, is:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	1
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	2
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	0
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	0
Grocers and Provision Dealers	...	...	...	...	39
Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	4
Public Houses, Hotels	...	...	...	...	25
Dairies	...	...	...	...	4

(b) Eight premises are registered for the manufacture or preparation of preserved food.

Thirty-two premises are registered for the sale and storage intended for sale of ice-cream.

Four premises are registered as dairies.

(c) All condemned food is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip under supervision.

(d) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

Six visits of inspection were made to food premises. Improvements and compliance with the regulations were secured.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The three licensed slaughterhouses continued in regular use during the year, all of them being satisfactorily maintained. All meat killed was inspected and it was necessary to condemn 13 cwt. 0 qrt. 5 lbs. of carcase meat and 6 cwt. 2 qrts. 20 lbs. of offal.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

DAIRIES

The dairies within the district were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	406	23	2,273	799	Nil
Number Inspected	406	23	2,273	799	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	7	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	65	Nil	44	58	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	16.25%	Nil	2.29%	7.61%	N.A.
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	24	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.00%	N.A.
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	Nil	8	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil



G. W. LYDDON
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